

Role and Challenges of Local Food Initiatives in urban areas. Reflecting on the Brussels case.

*PhD Seminar
Leuven - 24 November.*

Alessandra Manganeli



Roadmap



Roadmap

Research Focus



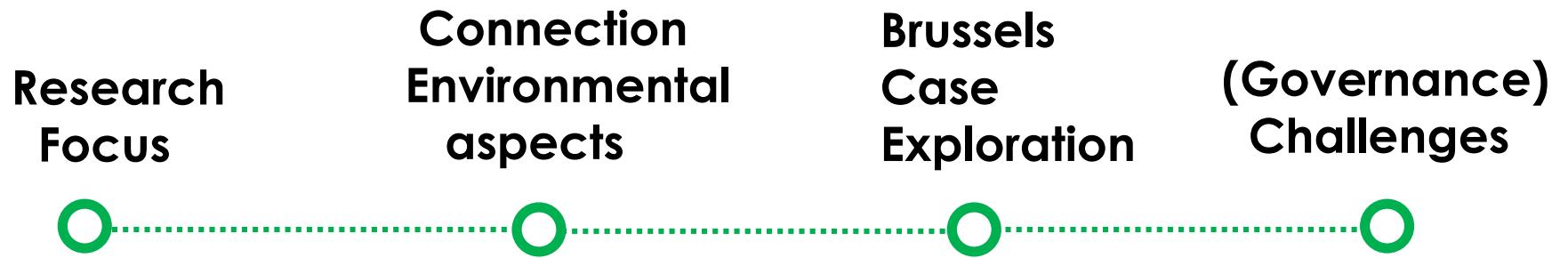
Roadmap



Roadmap



Roadmap



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



Research
Focus



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



**Research
Focus**



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



Research
Focus



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



- Different forms of self-organizing/collective initiatives, trying to re-localize food production/ food chains

Research
Focus



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



=>Focus on Governance Challenges

**Research
Focus**



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.



=>Focus on Governance Challenges => Brussels-Capital Region (BCR) as main Case study

**Research
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Connecting different aspects of Governance

**Research
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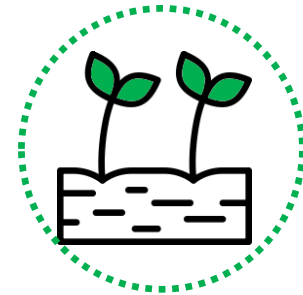


=>Focus on **Governance Challenges** => **Brussels-Capital Region (BCR)** as main Case study



Connecting different aspects of Governance

RESOURCE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES



Research
Focus



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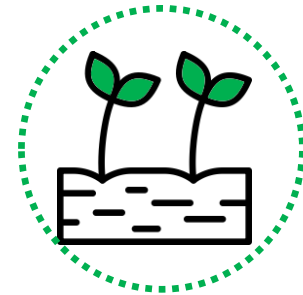
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RESOURCE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Land accessibility governance and challenges to scale-out Urban Agriculture across the BCR (impact of planning systems, etc)



**Research
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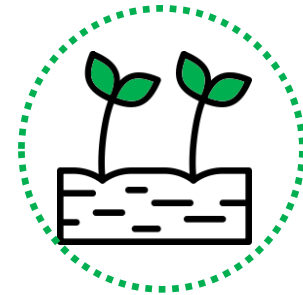
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ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES



Research
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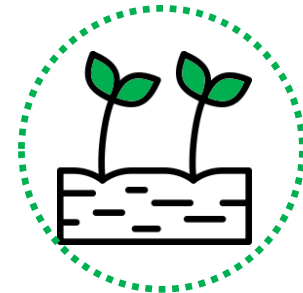
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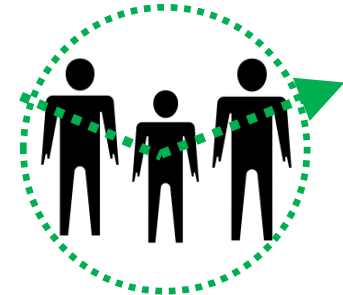
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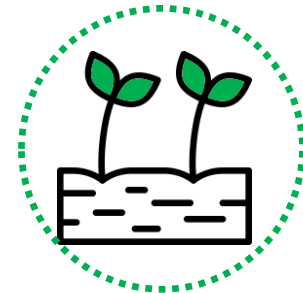
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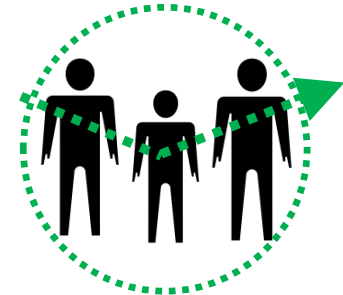
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ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Struggles by self-organizing initiatives to increase their impact over a city-region (BCR)



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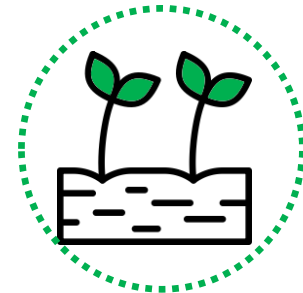
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Connecting different aspects of Governance

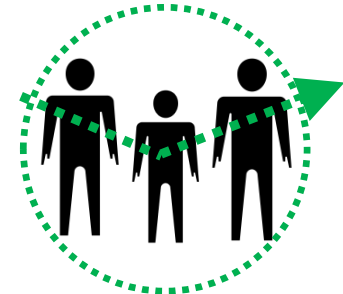
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INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES



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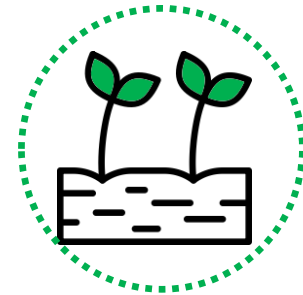
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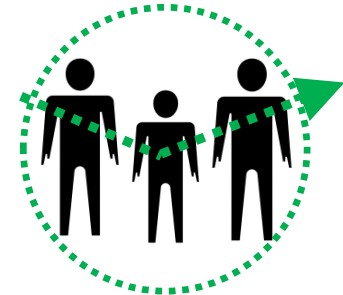
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INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Tensions related to institutionalization. Enabling vs constraining institutional systems; challenges in ensuring institutional support



Focus: Urban Agriculture and Alternative (local) Food Networks.

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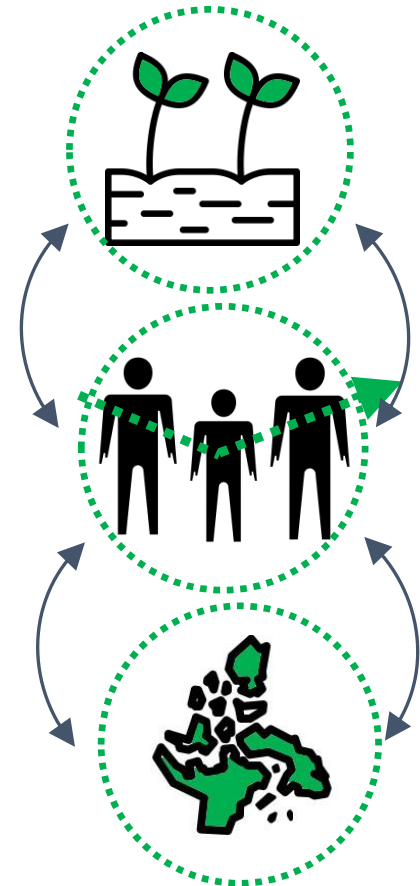
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

Research
Focus

Environmental
Aspects



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems

*'The **demand for food** by a wealthier and 50% larger global population will be a **major driver of global environmental change**'*

Research
Focus

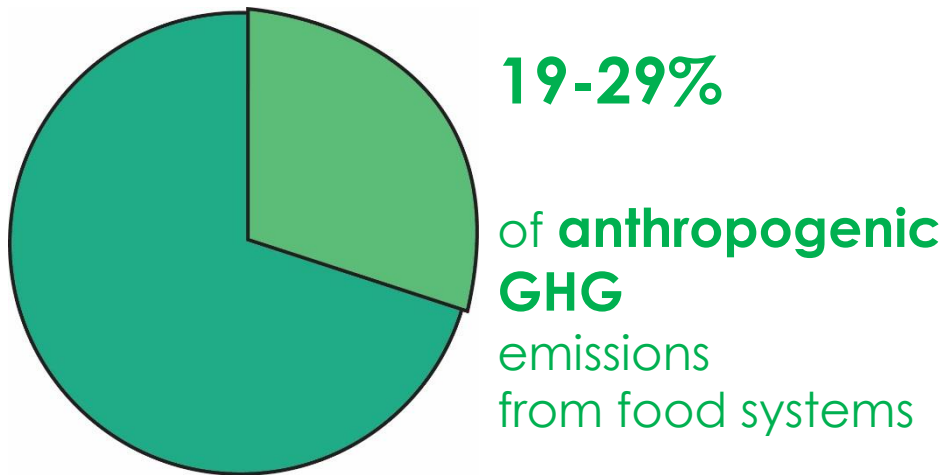
Environmental
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*'The **demand for food** by a wealthier and 50% larger global population will be a **major driver of global environmental change**'*

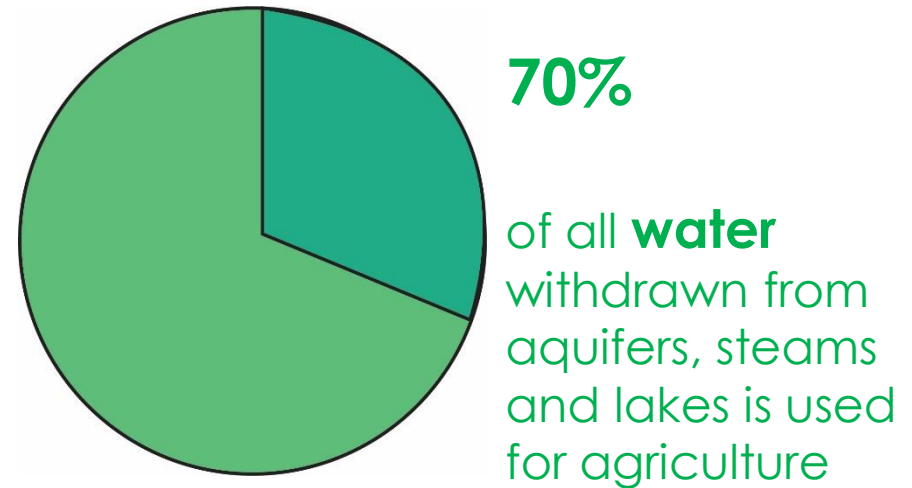
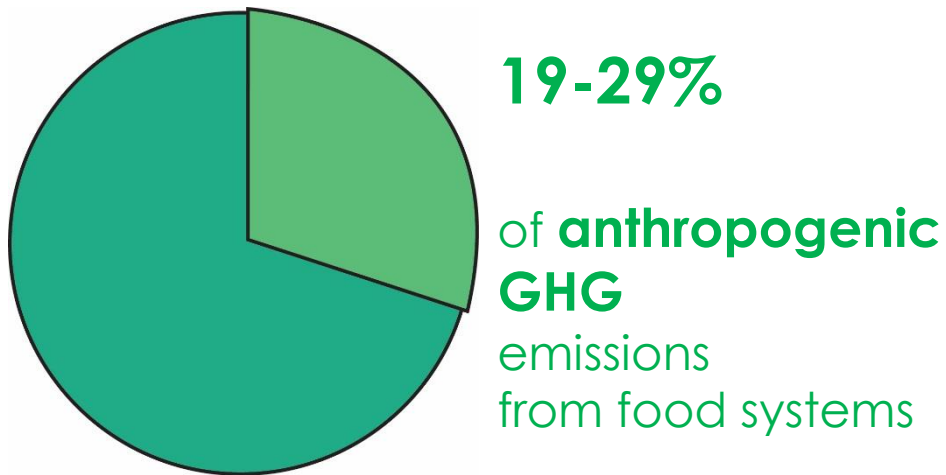


Source: IPES Food Report (2016)

Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems

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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems**

*'The **demand for food** by a wealthier and 50% larger global population will be a **major driver of global environmental change**'*

*'..Land converted to agriculture to meet global food demand comes from forests, grasslands, and other natural habitats. **Increases in agricultural land, a major quantified cause of global habitat destruction**, are a conservative estimate of losses of native ecosystems' (Tilman et al. 2001 – Science)*

Research
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*'The **demand for food** by a wealthier and 50% larger global population will be a **major driver of global environmental change**'
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=> Critical views on the 'productivist' paradigm of the Green Revolution

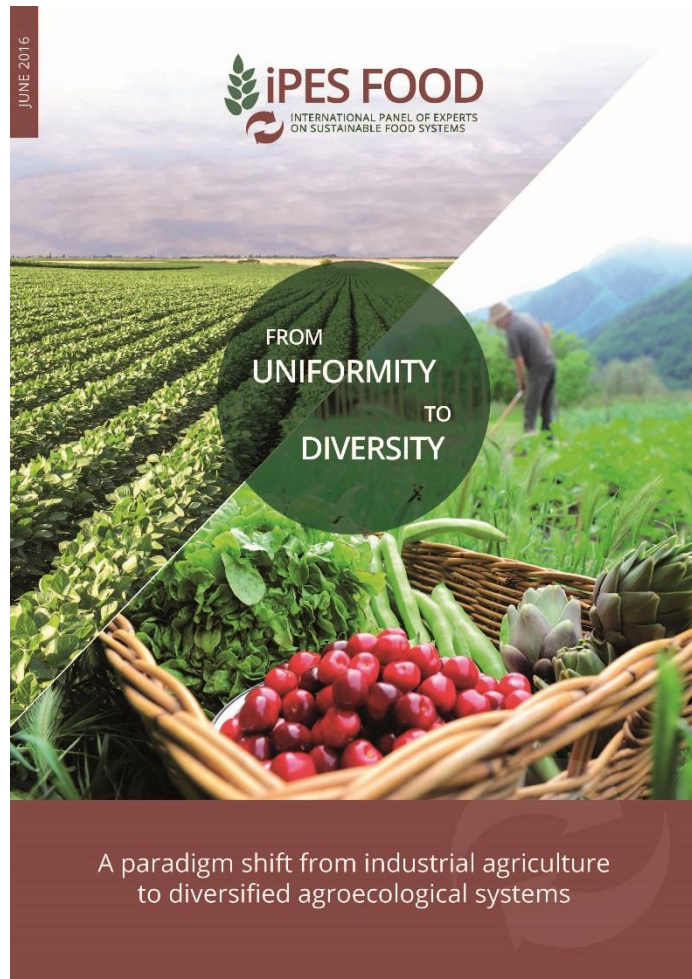
Research
Focus

Environmental
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

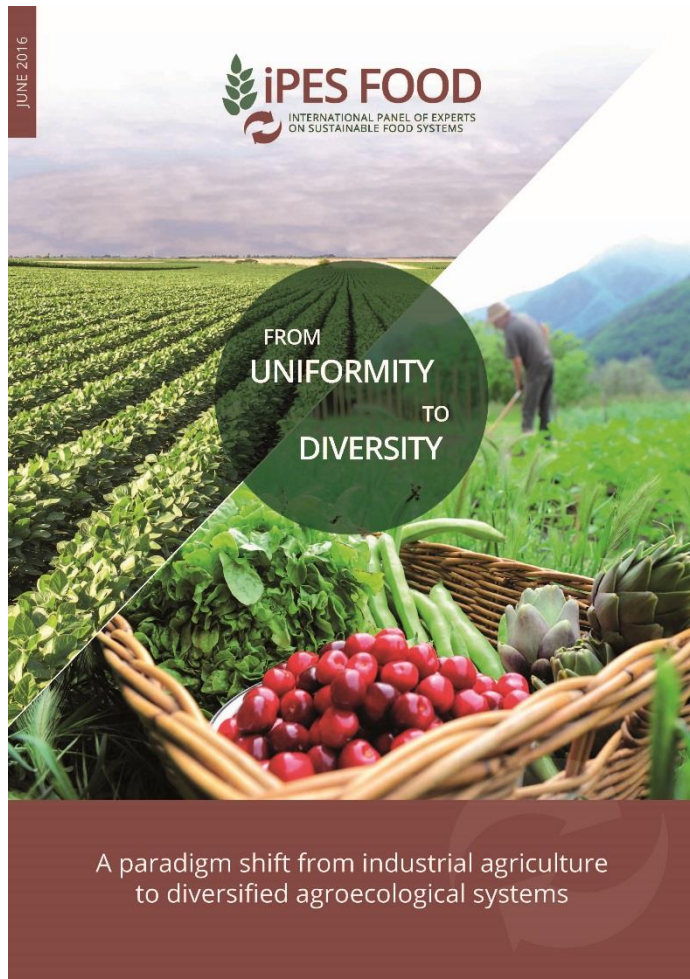
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**‘Agroecological food systems
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems**

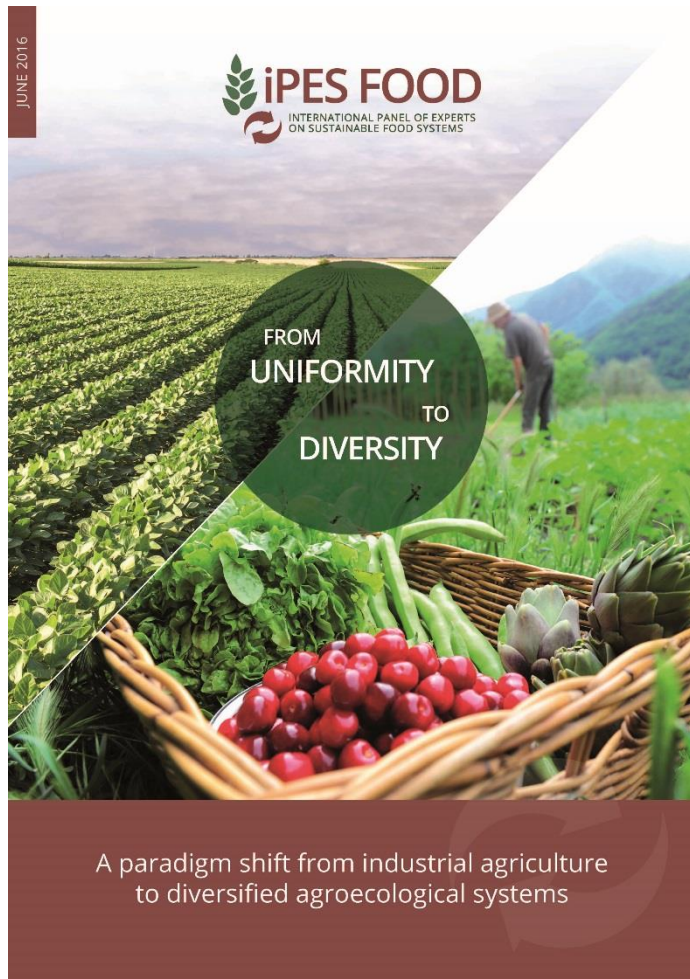


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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems**



‘Agroecological food systems as alternatives to industrial agriculture..’



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems** as one key driver of alternative food movements
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- **Surge of movements for food-relocalization**

Research
Focus

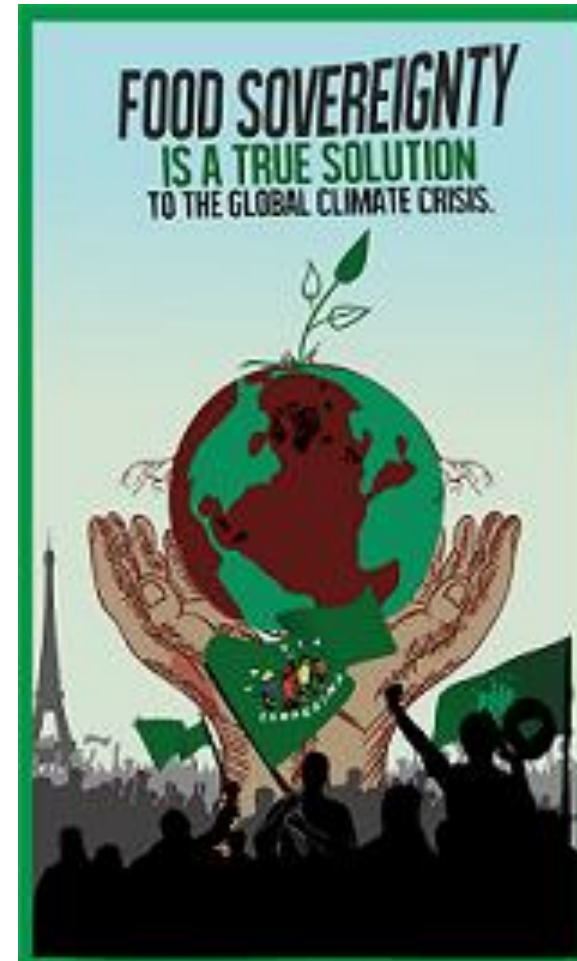
Environmental
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

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La Via Campesina
International Federation



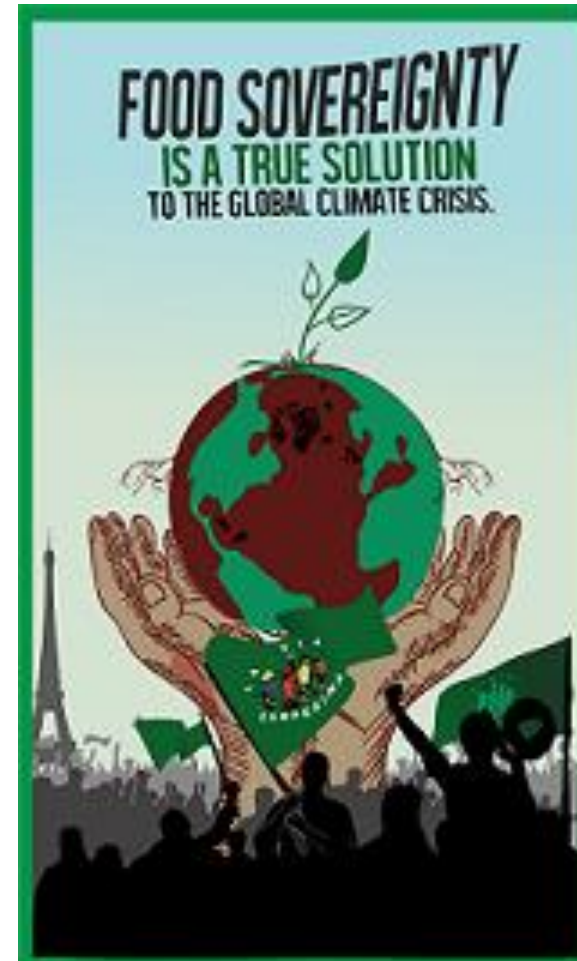
Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

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Creating
community-based
food systems
supporting **small-**
scale
peasant/agro-
ecological
agriculture



La Via Campesina
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems** as one key driver of **alternative food movements**



- **Surge of movements for food-relocalization**
- **(Food) transition movements**

Research
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Environmental
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

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Research
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Research
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Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

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**Local-bottom-up
responses
to ecological-
societal
crises**



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

- **Environmental Impact of industrialized food systems** as one key driver of **alternative food movements**



- **Surge of movements for food-relocalization**
- **(Food) transition movements**
- **Urban Food Initiatives** and policies on sustainable food

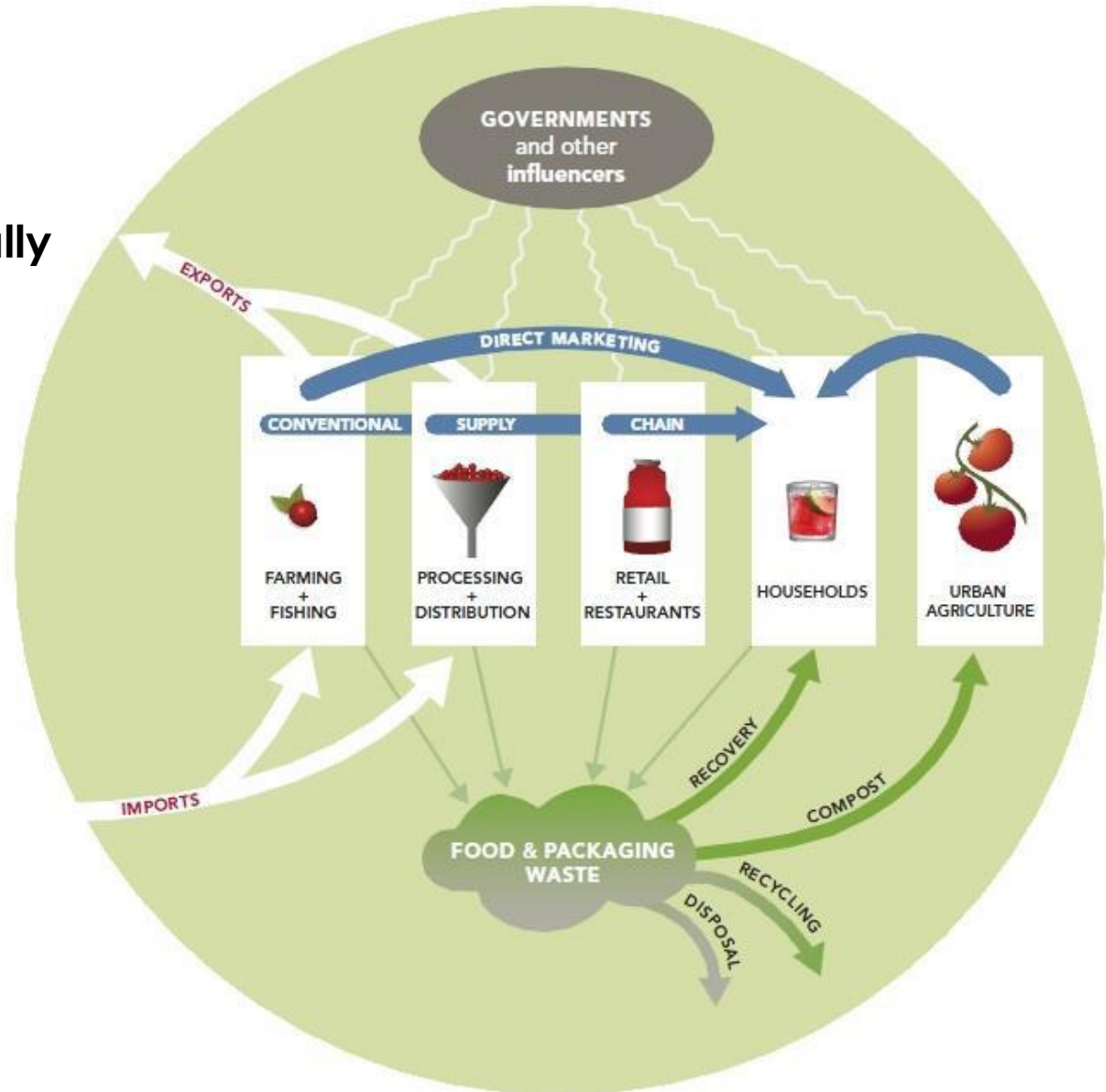
Research
Focus

Environmental
Aspects



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change

Developing more regionally based food systems



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



BRUSSELS' CASE => Environmental-health concerns inspiring pioneering civil society initiatives/institutional policies in Brussels

Research
Focus

Environmental
Aspects

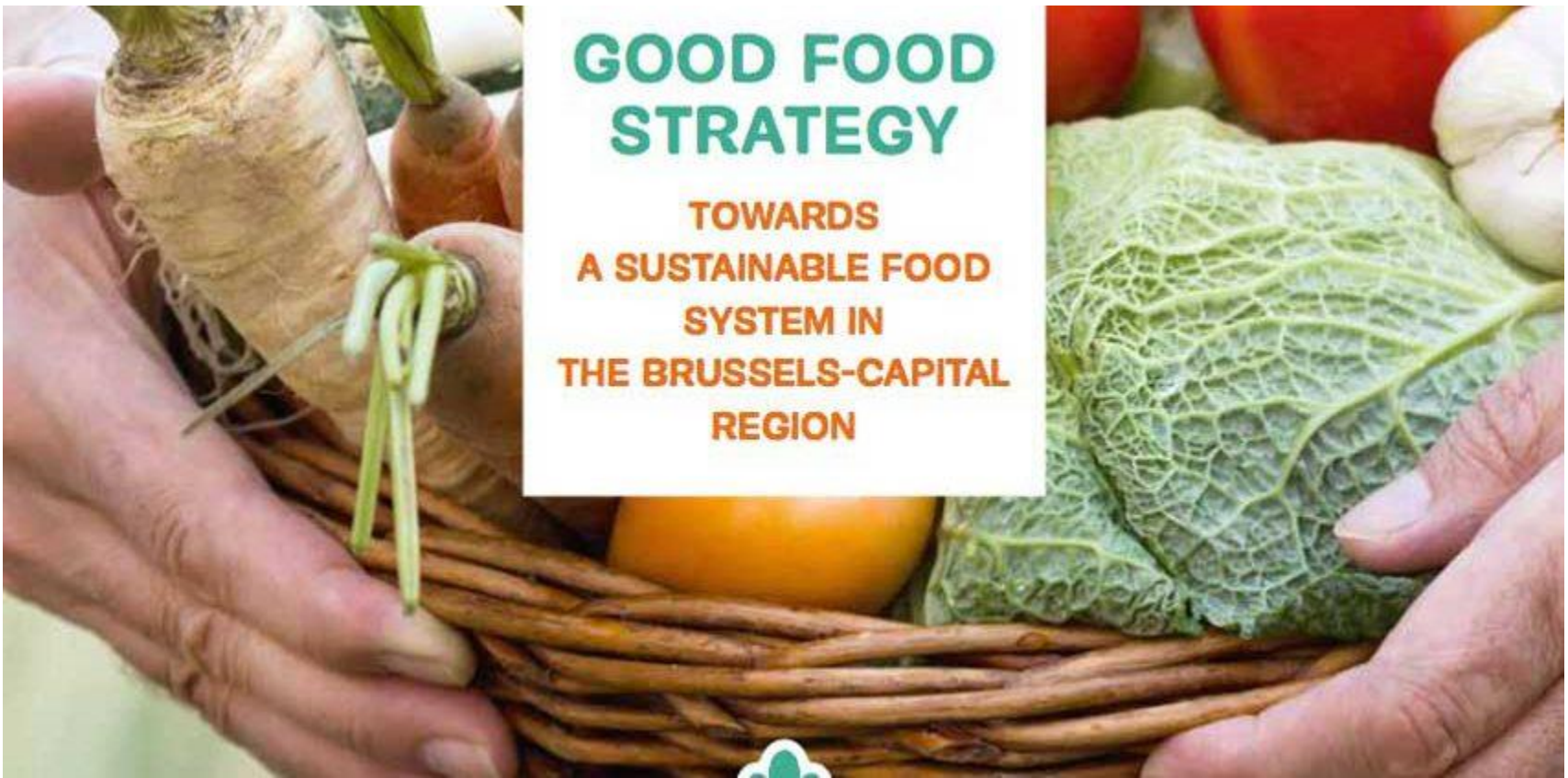
Brussels
Case



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



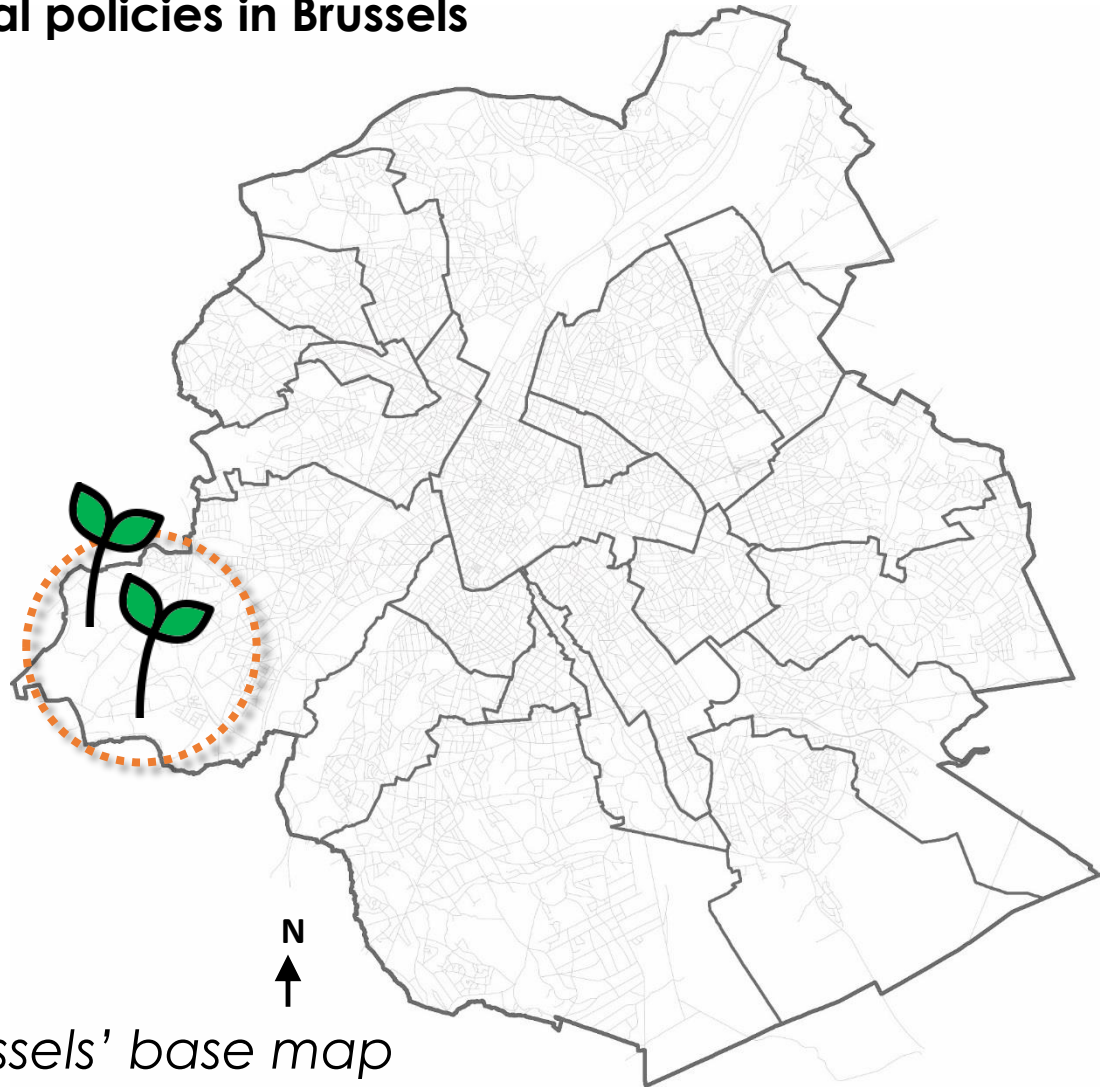
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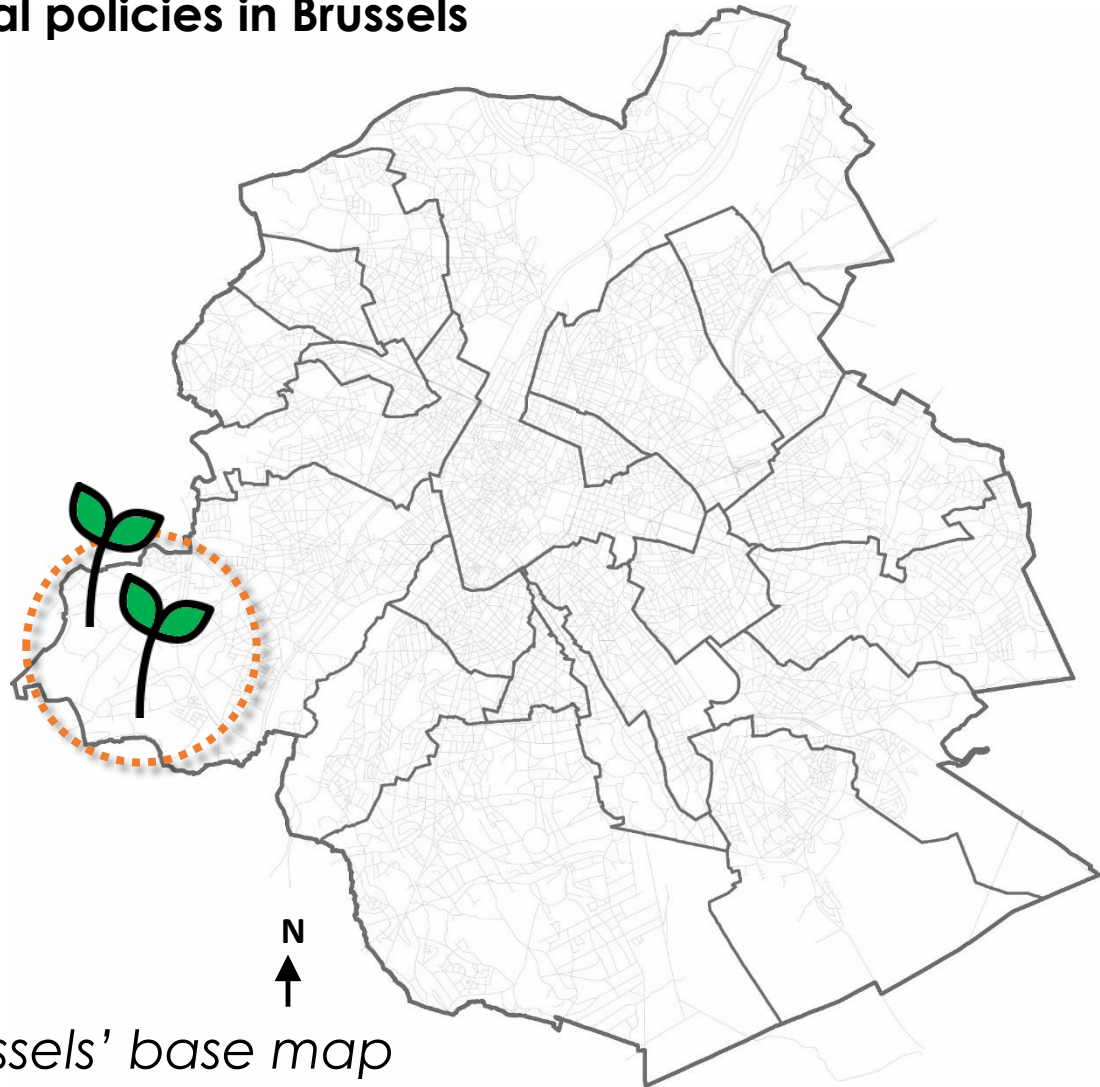
Brussels' base map

Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



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Initiatives, projects, a strategy..



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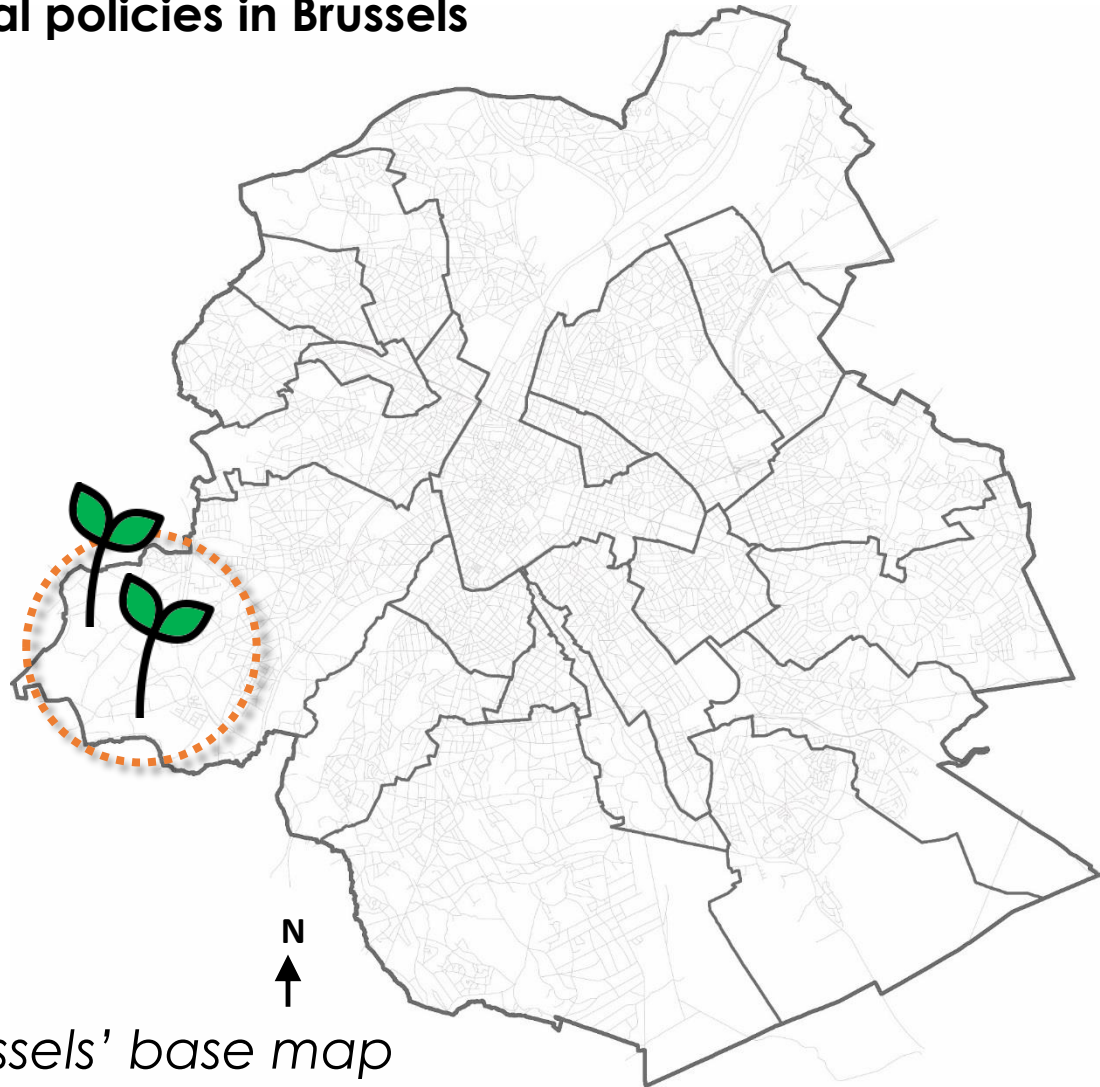


BRUSSELS' CASE => Environmental-health concerns inspiring pioneering civil society initiatives/institutional policies in Brussels

Initiatives, projects, a strategy..

CASE 1 |

**Making land accessible for
Agro-ecological agriculture,
Re-localizing the food chain**



Brussels' base map





Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



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Initiatives, projects, a strategy..

CASE 2 –

Organizing short-food chains by connecting land outside Brussels with citizens-consumers in the Region

Research
Focus

Environmental
Aspects

Brussels
Case



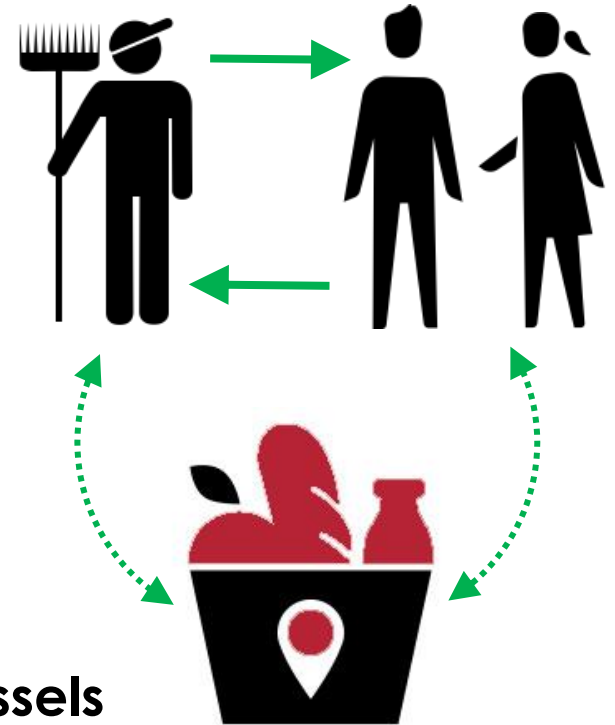
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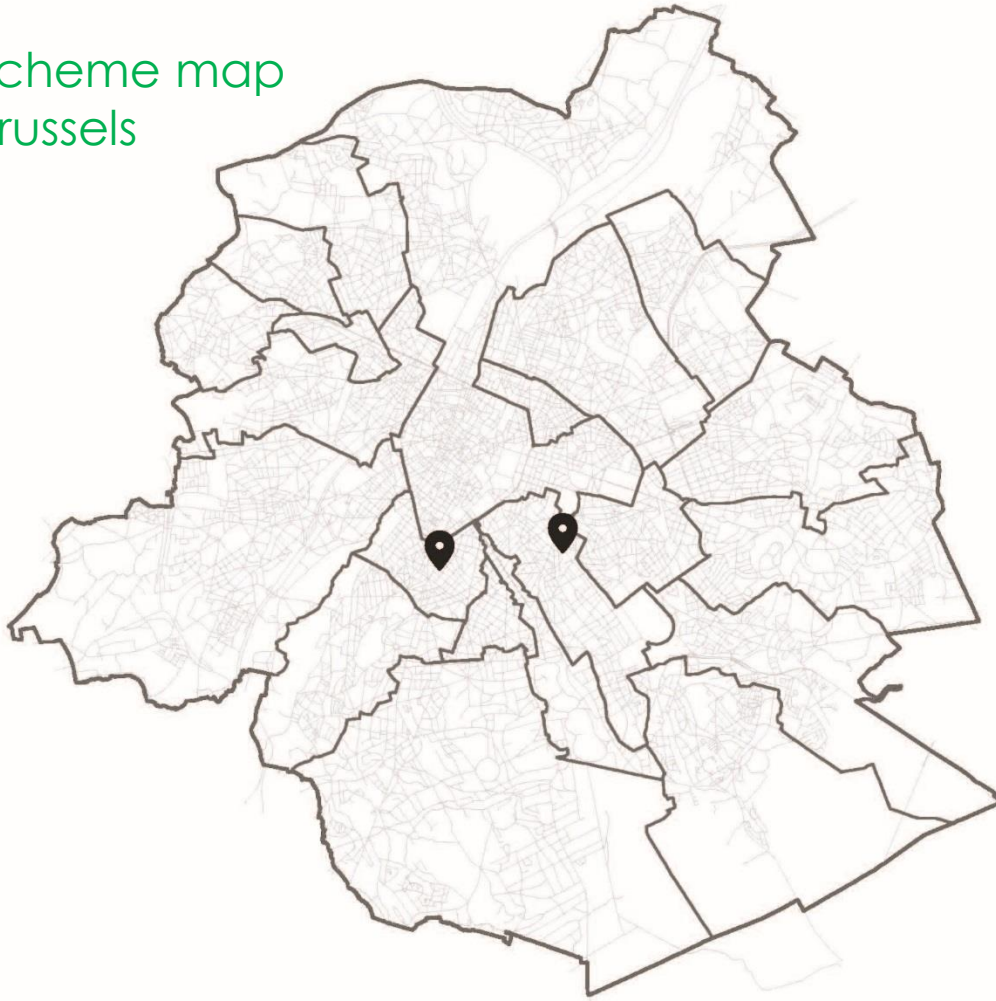
Brussels
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Scheme map
Brussels

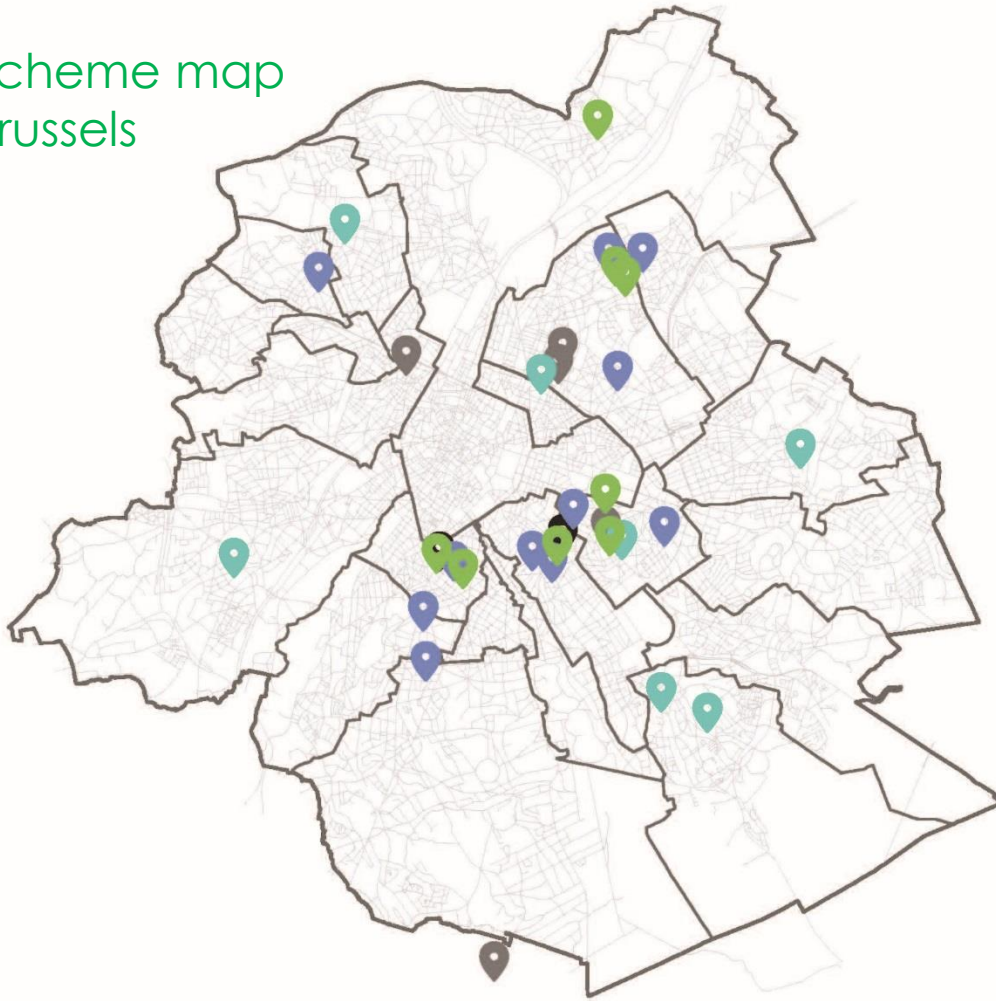


Pick-up points |
Evolution

 **2006**
First GASAP Groups

BRUSSELS' CASE => Environmental-health concerns inspiring pioneering civil society initiatives/institutional policies in Brussels

Scheme map
Brussels

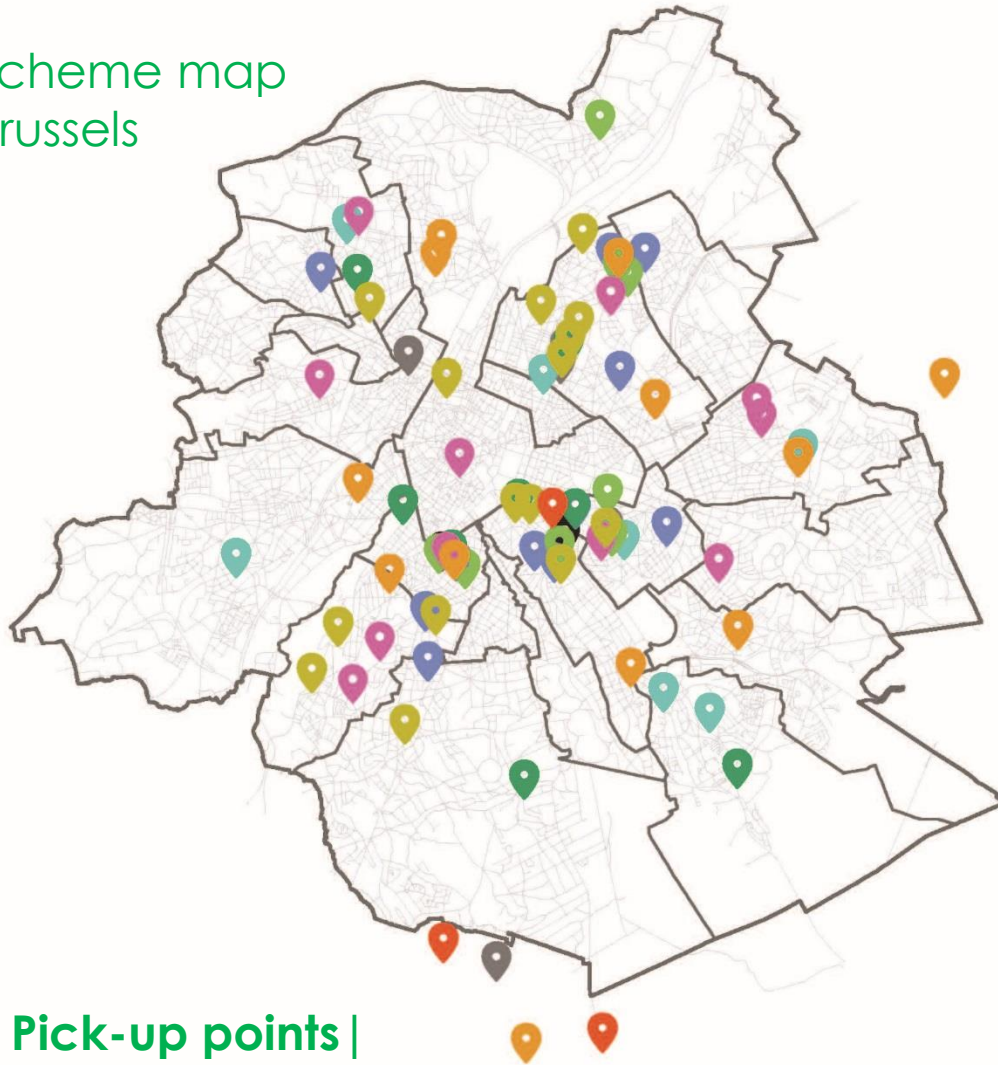


-  **2010**
GASAP Groups
-  **2009**
GASAP Groups
-  **2008**
GASAP Groups
-  **2007**
GASAP Groups
-  **2006**
First GASAP Groups

Pick-up points |
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Scheme map
Brussels

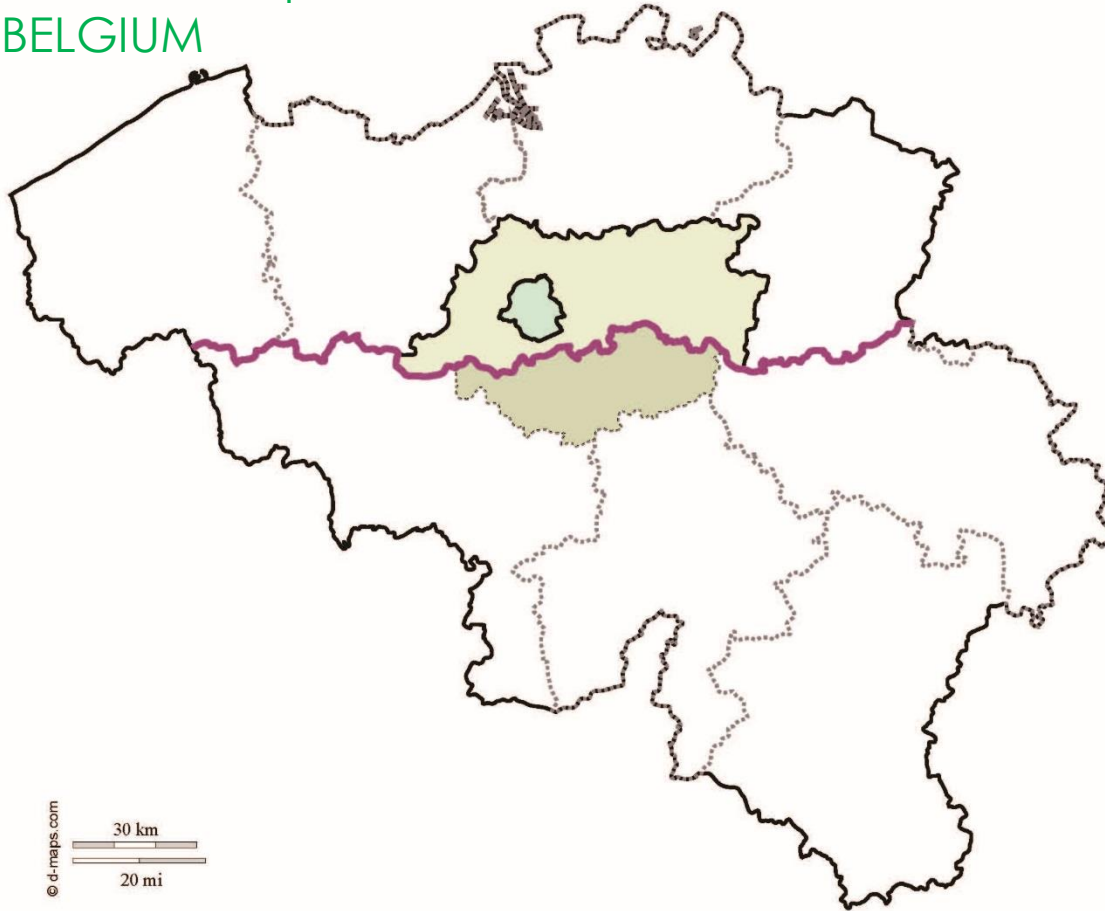


Pick-up points |
Evolution

-  **2015**
GASAP Groups
-  **2014**
GASAP Groups
-  **2013**
GASAP Groups
-  **2012**
GASAP Groups
-  **2011**
GASAP Groups
-  **2010**
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First GASAP Groups

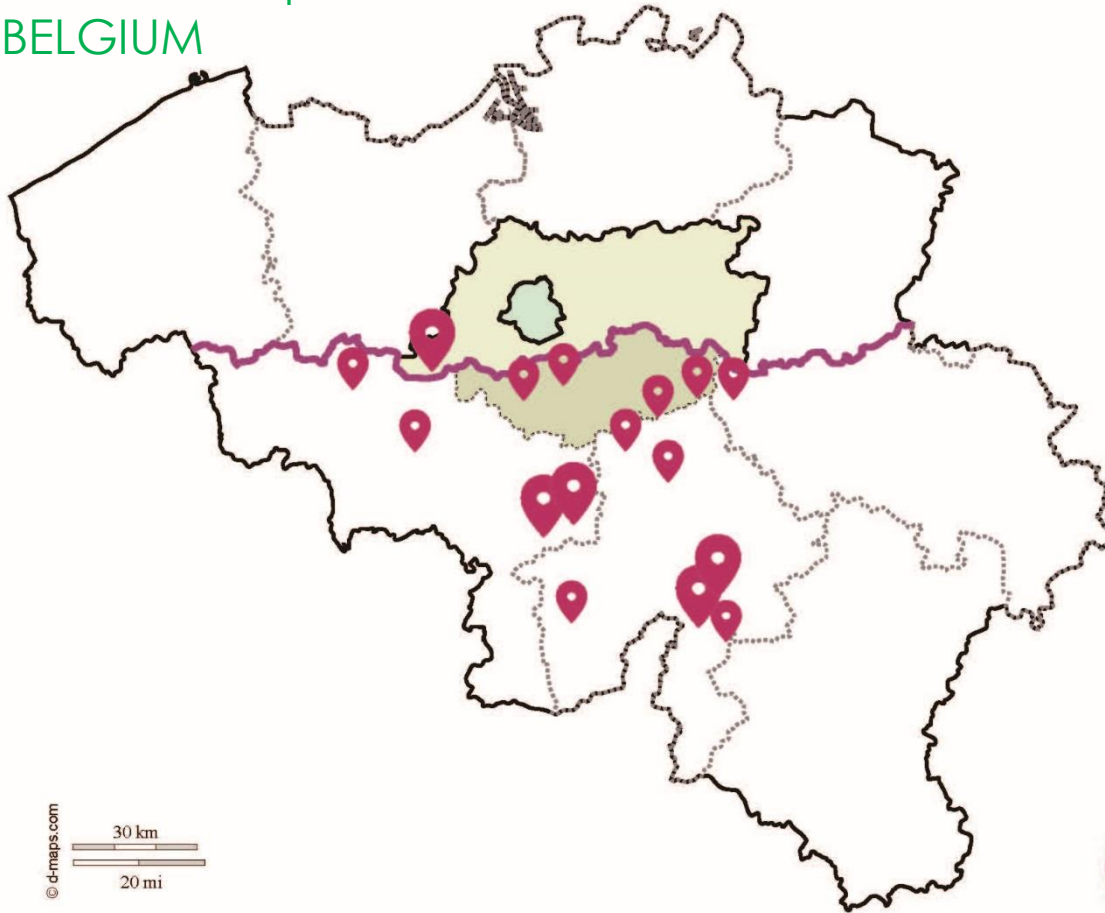
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Scheme map
BELGIUM



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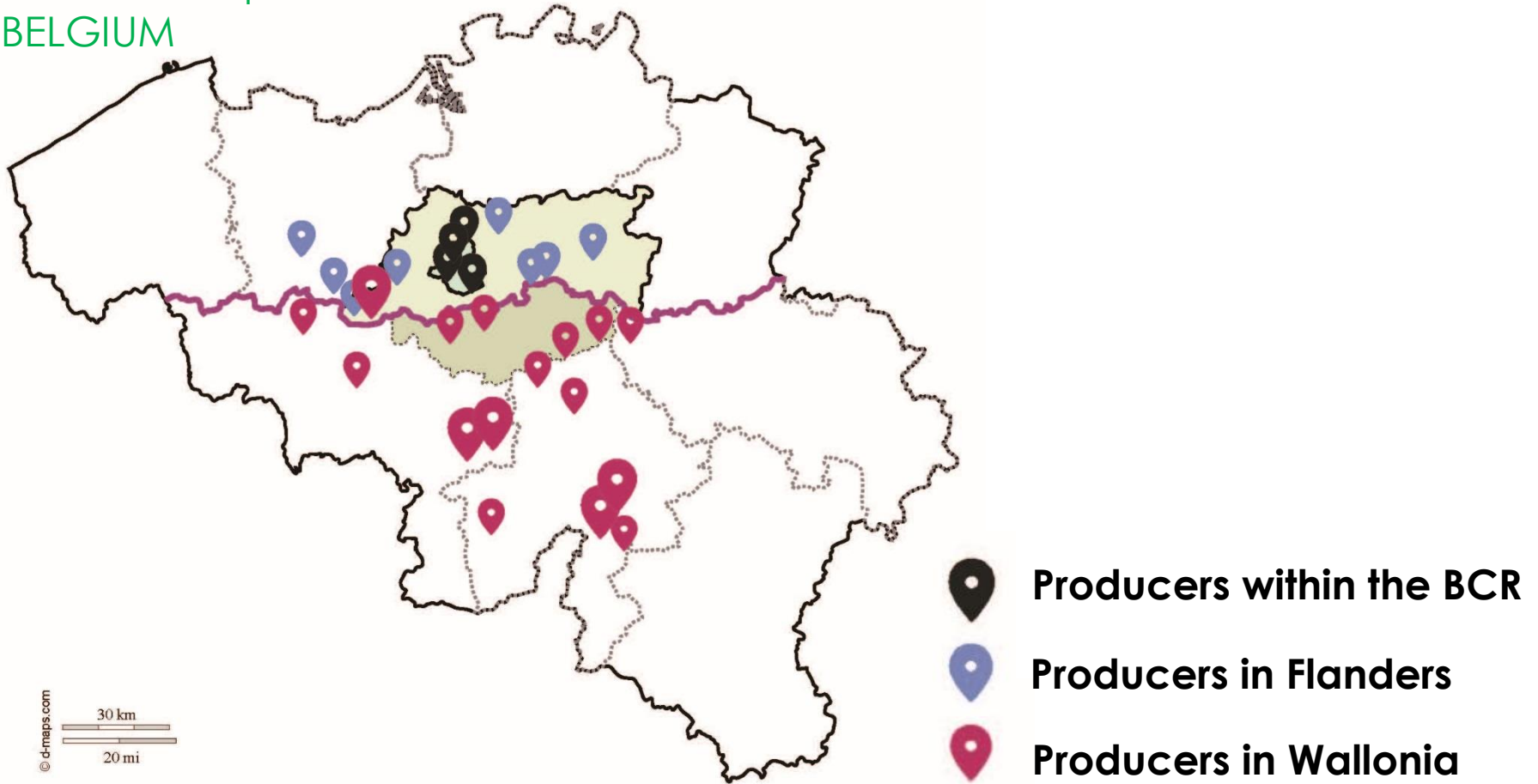
Scheme map
BELGIUM



Producers in Wallonia

BRUSSELS' CASE => Environmental-health concerns inspiring pioneering civil society initiatives/institutional policies in Brussels

Scheme map
BELGIUM



Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



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Initiatives, projects, a strategy..

Relation with environmental aspects and climate change



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Initiatives, projects, a strategy..

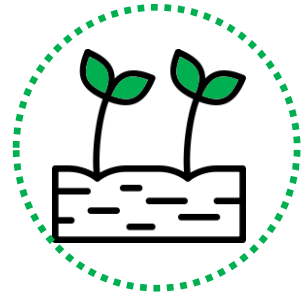
2015 | launch of a Food Strategy



Reflecting on the Brussels' case: GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

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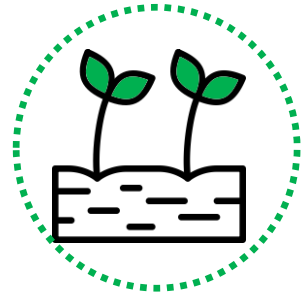
=> Land accessibility challenges in the Region



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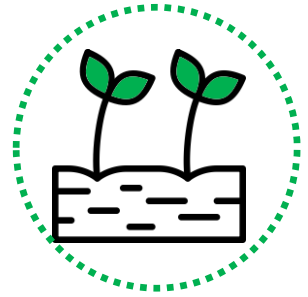
- Land availability,
Competing claims over the use of land



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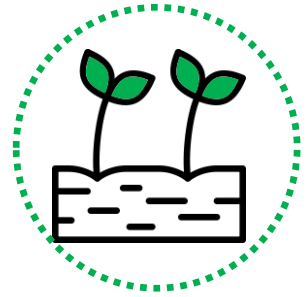
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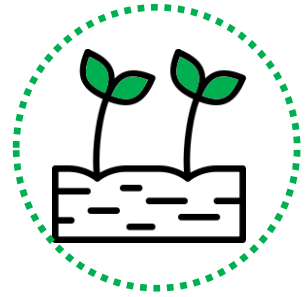
- Land availability,
Competing claims over the use of land
- Ownership and right to use land
- Potential threat of land contamination



Reflecting on the Brussels' case: GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

=> Land accessibility challenges in the Region

- Land availability,
Competing claims over the use of land
- Ownership and right to use land
- Potential threat of land contamination
- Not enabling planning system

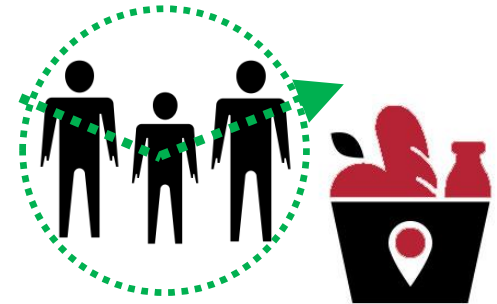
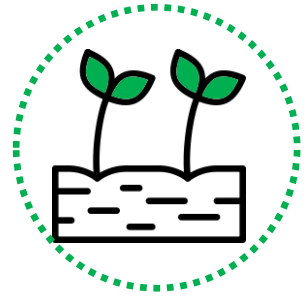


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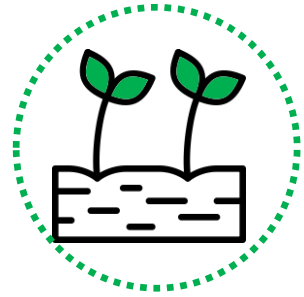
=> Organizational (governance) challenges



Reflecting on the Brussels' case: GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

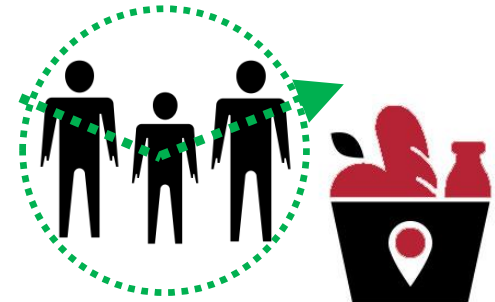
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=> Organizational (governance) challenges

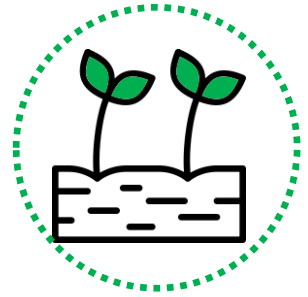
- Growth of the consumer-producers network
requires stronger organizational capacity
and access to resource
(e.g. Food distribution logistics,..)



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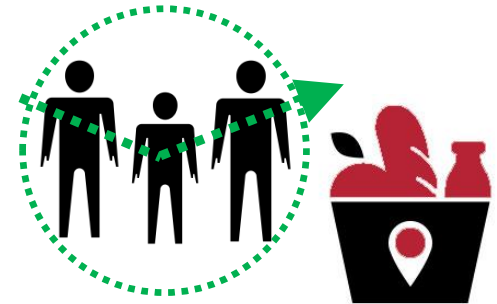
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=> Organizational (governance) challenges

- Growth of the consumer-producers network
requires stronger organizational capacity
and access to resource
(e.g. Food distribution logistics,...)
- Struggles in financial sustainability
(autonomy vs dependence)

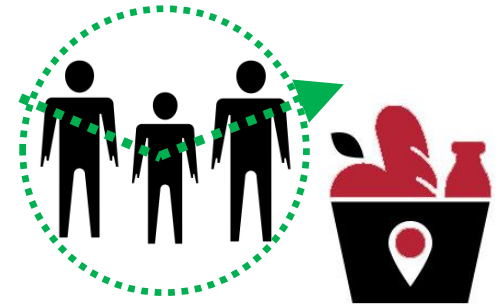
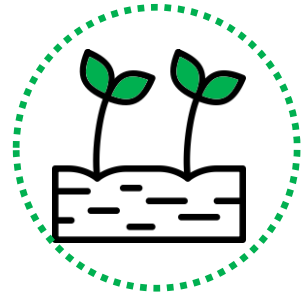


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=> Institutional (governance) challenges



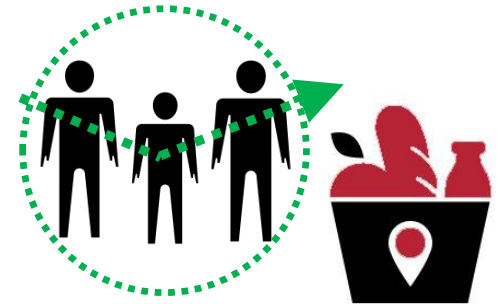
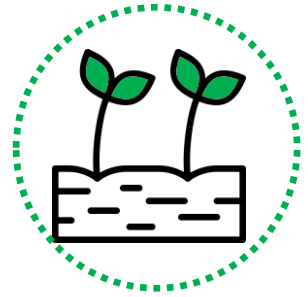
Reflecting on the Brussels' case: GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

=> Land accessibility challenges in the Region

- Land availability,
Competing claims over the use of land
- Ownership and right to use land
- Potential threat of land contamination
- Not enabling planning system

=> Institutional (governance) challenges

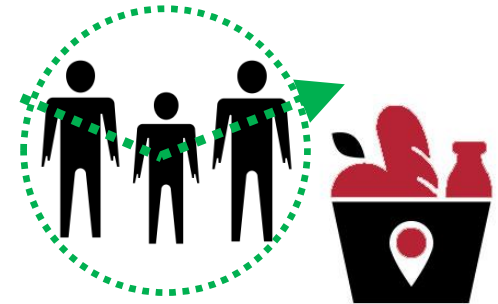
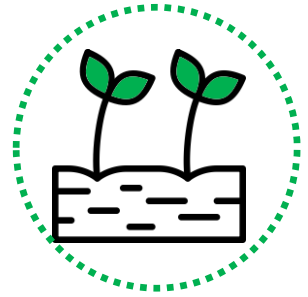
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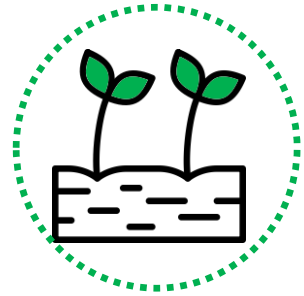
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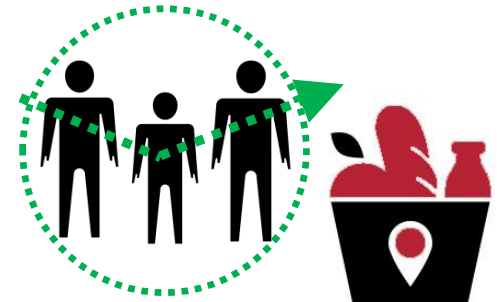
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=> Institutional (governance) challenges

- Not strong cooperation initiatives/government
- Weak Institutionalization
- Institutional Fragmentation not favoring territorial cooperation
(see BCR – Flanders)



Thank you!

